

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 RSR-01 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-09

NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00

PRS-01 OMB-01 M-03 /066 W
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O 121120 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0056

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAIGON 6195 N O F O R N

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, VS

SUBJECT: GVN SECURITY EFFORTS FOR MEKONG RIVER CONVOYS

REF: SECSTATE 068016

1. FOLLOWING REPORT FROM DAO GIVES LATEST INFORMATION ON STEPS BEING TAKEN TO CORRECT UNSATISFACTORY GVN EFFORTS TO PROTECT RESUPPLY CONVOYS ON MEKONG BETWEEN TAN CHAU AND CAMBODIAN BORDER.

2. MEKONG RIVER CONVOY.

A) RADM CHON (CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS) SPENT THE DAY TODAY AT BINH THUY CONFERRING WITH COMMODORE HUNG, DCNO FOR RIVERINE OPERATIONS. FOLLOWING ARE THE KEY POINTS ON THE MEKONG RIVER CONVOY SITUATION AS REPORTED BY CHON:

B) THE SAILING OF THE REMAINING NINE SHIP CONVOY FROM TAN CHAU HAS BEEN DELAYED ANOTHER 24 HOURS TO 130700 H.

C) THE ADDITIONAL DELAY IS TO ALLOW TIME FOR GROUND FORCES OF THE ARVN 9 TH DIVISION TO CLEAR THE AREA ON THE EAST BANK OF MEKONG BETWEEN TAN CHAU AND THE BORDER. GROUND FORCES INCLUDE THREE BATTALIONS, 15 TH REGIMENT, PLUS ONE ARMORED COMPANY. THIS WILL COMMIT ONE ADDITIONAL BATTALION TO THE FORCE PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED.

D) CHON HAS DIRECTED THAT THE VNN FORCES CURRENTLY COMMITTED (I. E. ONE PGM, 18 PBR, PLUS FOUR OTHER RIVERINE CRAFT) BE
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AUGMENTED BY ONE LSSL PLUS 10 PBRS.

E) PLAN IS TO PRE- POSITION RIVERINE CRAFT ALONG ROUTE OF THE CONVOY (AS WAS DONE SUNDAY), AND EMPLOY THE ADDITIONAL CRAFT INTERSPERSED WITH AND IN ESCORT OF THE CONVOY.

F) VNAF WILL PROVIDE AIR COVER AS REQUESTED BY CG MR 4 (IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON THIS POINT, CHON EXPRESSED OPINION THAT VNAF WOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE COVER).

G) VNN HAS PROVIDED FOOD AND WATER TO THE SHIPS AS REQUIRED. (SOME SHIP MASTERS HAD REQUESTED TO RETURN TO VUNG TAU FOR FOOD AND WATER).

H) CHON SAID MAXIMUM EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO GET THE CONVOY THROUGH.
BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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